Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following paragraph at page 7, line 19:

Figure 6 shows the conditions under which the estimated noise energy is updated according to the invention.

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, lines 2-7 as follows:

The difference of the log frame energy is equivalent to determining the ratio of the energy between the current frame 312 and each of the last K frames 302, 304, 306 and 308. The largest difference between the log frame energy of the current frame and that of each of the last K frames is determined, as shown in Figure 3. When the largest difference is less than a predefined threshold value, the energy contour has not changed over the interval of K frames, and thus the signal is stationary.

Please amend the paragraph on page 17, lines 7-17 as follows:

~~Table 1~~ Figure 6 shows the conditions under which the estimated noise energy is updated and the corresponding value of the update constant α. The first row 602 of ~~Table 1~~ Figure 6 shows the conditions for which the estimated noise energy is forcibly updated and shows the value of the update constant α corresponding to a respective condition. When the watch dog timer has expired, the update constant has a value of 0.002. Row 604 shows that when ~~When~~ a frame is determined to be stationary, the update constant has a value of 0.05. In row 606, when ~~When~~ the speech likelihood is less than a threshold value T_{LIK} and the LPC prediction error is greater than a threshold value T_{PE2}, the update constant has a value of 0.1. Row 608 shows that when ~~When~~ the normalized

skewness of the LPC residual has a near-zero value, namely when it has an absolute value less than a threshold T_a (when normalized by total energy) or less than T_b (when normalized by the variance), and when the LPC prediction error is greater than a threshold value T_{PE2}, the update constant has a value of 0.05. Row 610 shows that ~~When~~ the current noise energy estimate is greater than the total energy, namely when the noise energy is decreasing, the update constant has a value of 0.1.